

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference P205-0195WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION <div style="float: right; font-size: small;">see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</div> | |
| International application No. PCT/JP2005/010754 | International filing date (day/month/year) 07/06/2005 | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 10/06/2004 |
| Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA | | |

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/JP2005/010754

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04N5/76

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04N G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|------------------------------|
| X | US 2004/012693 A1 (HAYASHI TETSUYA 'JP!') ✓ 22 January 2004 (2004-01-22) abstract paragraphs '0008!', '0009!', '0047!' - '0050!', '0066!' - '0070!' ✓ | 1,5,8, 14,18, 20-22,24 |
| A | US 2004/062525 A1 (HASEGAWA MAKOTO ET AL) 1 April 2004 (2004-04-01) abstract paragraphs '0046!', '0064!' figure 1 ✓ | 1-73 ✓ |
| P,A | US 2005/110878 A1 (DALTON DAN L) 26 May 2005 (2005-05-26) abstract paragraphs '0001!', '0005!' figure 8 ✓ ----- -/- | 1-73 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 September 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/09/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Lauri, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP2005/010754

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | <p>US 6 704 047 B1 (TSUTSUI SATORU) ✓ 9 March 2004 (2004-03-09) abstract column 3; lines 1-12 column 8; lines 29-47 column 9, lines 5-15 claims 4,8</p> | 1-73 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP2005/010754

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| US 2004012693 A1 | 22-01-2004 | EP 1433064 A2 WO 2004010302 A2 JP 2004112755 A | 30-06-2004 29-01-2004 08-04-2004 |
| US 2004062525 A1 | 01-04-2004 | JP 2004112153 A | 08-04-2004 |
| US 2005110878 A1 | 26-05-2005 | DE 102004034863 A1 JP 2005160090 A | 30-06-2005 16-06-2005 |
| US 6704047 B1 | 09-03-2004 | DE 19826596 A1 JP 3658144 B2 JP 11004404 A | 17-12-1998 08-06-2005 06-01-1999 |

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

see form PCT/SA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43*bis*.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/010754

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.06.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
10.06.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H04N5/76

Applicant
CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
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Authorized Officer _____

Lauri, L

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/JP2005/010754

IP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 APR 2006

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/010754

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
- ☒ claims Nos. 5,8,14,20,21,22,24,26,30,38,40,41,42,44,47,59,67,68,70,71,72,73

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 5,8,14,20,21,22,24,26,30,38,40,41,42,44,47,59,67,68,70,71,72,73 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☐ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos.
- ☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| the written form | <input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard |
| the computer readable form | <input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard |
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☐ See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/010754

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*b/s*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 2,3,4 |
| | No: Claims | 1 |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 2,3,4 |
| | No: Claims | 1 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-73 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/010754

Re Item III.

In view of the large number and also the wording of the claims presently on file, especially the large number of independent and multiple dependent claims (see Rules 6.1(a) and 6.4(a) PCT), which render it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT to such an extent that a meaningful examination is impossible.

On the basis of Article 34(4)(a)(ii) and Article 35(3)(a) PCT, no statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) or Article 35(2) PCT can be delivered except for claim 1.

Re Item V.

1. Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US 2004/012693
2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses an imaging apparatus (abstract) that images a subject image and stores the subject image on a storage medium (paragraphs [0008] and [0009]), wherein the imaging apparatus selectively images a generic image to be retrieved and a key image to be used as a retrieval key of the image retrieval (paragraphs [0047]-[0050] and [0066]-[0070]).